

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3564

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, AINR, PORG, ILO, TS

SUBJEQT: MOHAMED ENNACEUR: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND  
TRAVEL PLANS

REF: DUBLIN 976

1. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON WHICH YOU  
MAY DRAW FOR ORALLY BRIEFING O'LEARY CONCERNING GOT  
MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS MOHAMEDENNACEUR:

A. MOHAMED ENNACEUR WAS BORN ON MARCH 21, 1934,  
IN THE TOWN OF EL DJEM. FROM A POOR FAMILY, ENNACEUR  
HAS RISEN TO THE TOP LEVEL OF THE TUNISIAN ELITE THROUGH  
A COMBINATION OF SOLID PERFORMANCE IN THE TECHNICAL  
FIELD OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THROUGH FAITHFUL WORK IN  
TUNISIA'S SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY. EDUCATED IN TUNISIA  
AND FRANCE, ENNACEUR HAS ALSO BENEFITED FROM LONG-TERM  
TRAINING IN EUROPE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ILO  
AND IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM.

B. SINCE JOINING THE TUNISIAN BUREAUCRACY IN  
1957, ALL BUT ONE OF HIS JOBS HAOE BEEN IN THE FIELD  
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OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS. IN 1972/73 HELSERVED FOR NINE  
MONTHS AS GOVERNOR OF OUSSE AND REPORTEDLY DID NOT

LIKE THE JOB BECAUSE IT REQUIRED A LEVEL OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT HE DID NOT WANT TO MAKE AND KEPT HIM FROM THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS ISSUES HE PREFERENCES. AFTER LEAVING THE GOVERNORATE POSITION IN MAY 1973, ENNACEUR WAS NAMED TO HEAD THE GOT'S OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT,

EMIGRANT LABOR, AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING WHERE HE STAYED UNTIL APPOINTED SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER IN JANUARY 1974.

C. AS SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, ENNACEUR HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE AND KEY ROLE IN GOT SOCIAL POLICY. HIS MINISTRY HAS BEEN CALLED ON TO OVERSEE THE NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT SPONSORED COLLECTIVE BERGAINING AGREEMENTS COVERING NEARLY THE ENTIRE WORK FORCE. HIS MINISTRY HAS DEVELOPED MINIMUM WAGE REGULATIONS AND LEVELS FOR BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND HAS SOUGHT TO RATIONALIZE AND EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF TUNISIA'S RETIREMENT BENEFITS SYSTEM. ENNACEUR HAS ALSO SOUGHT SOLUTIONS TO TUNISIA'S CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT AND HAS CARRIED ON PROGRAMS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING. UNDER ENNACEUR'S SKILLED GUIDANCE, THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY HAS BEEN A LEADING FORCE IN THE GOT'S POLICY OF MODELING A MODERN ECONOMY ALONG WESTERN EUROPEAN LINES THAT MIXES STATE CAPITALISM WITH A MODIFIED FREE MARKET.

D. PARALLEL TO HIS CAREER IN THE BUREAUCRACY, ENNACEUR HAS BEEN MODERATELY ACTIVE IN DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY(PDS) AFFAIRS. JOINING THE PARTY IN 1954 WHILE HE WAS STILL A STUDENT, ENNACEUR HAS OCCUPIED A NUMBER OF PARTY POSITIONS OF MEDIUM IMPORTANCE. HE HAS BEEN TAPPED BY THE PARTY AS WELL TO SERVE AS MAYOR OF HITLHOME TOWN SINCE 1963, AND HAS BEEN A DEPUTY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SINCE NOV. 1974. IN SEPTEMBER 1974 HE WAS ELECTED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE PSD'S 60-MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE, A PRESTIGE BODY WITH LITTLE PRESENT IMPORTANCE BUT POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IN THE POST-BOURGUIBA PERIOD.  
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E. ENNACEUR HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE AS WELL IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS. ASIDE FROM HIS CLOSE TIES TO THE ILO THROUGH ITS TRAINING PROGRAMS, HE HAS SERVED AS ILO "CORRESPONDENT" IN TUNIS (1962-64) AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF GOT DELEGATIONS TO ILO CONFERENCES IN GENEVA SINCE 1963. HE HAS SERVED ON UN SOCIAL COUNCIL, THE UNICEF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, AND THE UN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. IN MAY 1976 HE

PRESIDED OVER THE AFRICAN/WEST ASIAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE.

F. ENNACEUR IS THOUGHT TO ENJOY HIS PRESENT POSITION IN THE GOT TO THE RESPECT PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA HAS FOR HIS TECHNICAL SKILLS AND HIS ABILITY TO USE THEM EFFECTIVELY. ENNACEUR IS NOT IDENTIFIED WITH ANY FACTION WITHIN THE PSD BUT RATHER SEEKS TO GET ALONG WITH ALL. HE DOES NOT APPARENTLY HAVE AMBITIONS TO RISE HIGHER IN THE TUNISIAN ELITE AND AFTER HIS TENURE IN THE MINISTRY ENDS HE MAY WELL SEEK TO PURSUE HIS CAREER IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHERE HE CAN PUT HIS TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE TO USE.

G. ENNACEUR IS RELAZED AND PERSONABLE. HE DEALS FRANKLY AND DIRECTLY AND DOES NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING DEVIOUS OR CALCULATING. HE FULLY REFLECTS THE FOREIGN POLICY OF HIS GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE U.S. AND IS WILLING TO BE DISCREETLY HELPFUL. HE WILL, HOWEVER, BE CAREFUL NOT TO STRAY TOO FAR FROM ACCEPTED NON-ALIGNED CONSENSUS.

H. ENNACEUR IS MARRIED TO A NORWEGIAN WOMAN WHOM HE MET DURING HIS STUDENT DAYS IN EUROPE. THEY HAVE FIVE CHILDREN. SHE IS ACTIVE IN CHARITABLE GROUPS IN TUNIS BUT DOES NOT MIX WITH OTHER GOT MINISTERS' WIVES. ENNACEUR HAS PERSONAL INTERESTS IN ARCHEOLOGY AND SPORTS. HE SPEAKS NATIVE ARABIC AND FRENCH. HIS ENGLISH IS ADEQUATE FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS AND MOST WORK REQUIREMENTS BUT HE PREFERS SPEAKING IN FRENCH.  
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I. ENNACEUR HAS NOT YET SET DATE FOR HIS ARRIVAL IN GENEVA.  
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## Message Attributes

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